Cooch Behar Palace, and others have been kept safely preserved in the local office.

(d) No, Sir, as the objectives set for the excavation had been realised.

Irrigation potential of Harihar Jor Irrigation Project in Orissa

3376.SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the irrigation potential of the Harihar Jor Irrigation Project in Orissa;

(b) whether the project has been completed; and

(c) if so, the details of additional irrigation facilities added to the State after the execution of that irrigation project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) (a) to (c) The Harihar Jor Irrigation Project in Orissa envisages creation of ultimate irrigation potential of 13.70 thousand hectare on completion, out of which 9.95 thousand hectare has beeri created up to the end of 2000-2001. It is an ongoing project in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Clearance to flood control in Ganga Basin

3377. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has submitted a scheme of flood control in Ganga basin at an estimated cost of Rs. 500.00 crore to Ganga Flood Control Commission;

(b) whether Government propose to sanction this scheme; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Bihar has submitted a list of 19 schemes comprising 5 schemes of anti erosion works and 14 schemes for raising & strengthening/ construction of embankments to Ganga Flood Control Commission at a total estimated cost of about Rs. 542 crores.

(b) and (c) Flood management being a State subject, the responsiblity

of planning, funding, executing and operating the flood control schemes primarily rests with the concerned State Govemments. The assistance rendered by the Central Government is technical, catalytic and promotional in nature.

The Government of India has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission, Patna to identify the schemes for inclusion in the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, "Critical anti-erosion works in Ganga Basin States" which is being formulated for 10th Plan with a central share of Rs. 133.85 crore. The Committee has already held two meetings. The State Governments of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhahd and West Bengal have been asked to prioritise the schemes for consideration of the Committee, keeping in view the availability of funds.

Problem of water due to drought

3378. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States due to severe drought in the country in the year 2002, will face gruelling problem of water in 2003; and

(b) if so, how the Ministry in coordination with the Ministry of Rural Development and other concerned Ministries are planning to solve the problem by assisting the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) In view of the low storage available in many of the important reservoirs being monitored by Central Water Commission and also the fact that the post-monsoon rainfall in many of the States during 2002 has not been encouraging, the shortage of water is apprehended. The overall position during the year 2003 shall depend upon the Meteorological events during the year especially during the monsoon.

(b) In order to assist the State Governments to meet the water shortage, the task-force constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Secretary of Water Resources has informed the State representatives about various schemes of different Central Ministries and the additional Central Assistance which can be provided to the States. The Task-Force has made number of recommendations including an early release of funds